

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an image, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

associating each of the metadata labels in the list with at least one of a plurality of icons;

displaying the plurality of icons, each of the icons being labelled with one or more of the metadata labels with which the icon was associated;

displaying the image adjacent to the displayed plurality of labelled icons, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

forming a plurality of bounded regions within the image, each said bounded region being configured to substantially surround a subject within said image;

detecting selection of at least one of the displayed plurality of labelled icons;

dragging the selected icon to the image, such that at least one of said bounded regions is changed upon the selected icon being dragged over the at least one bounded region in order to emphasize the at least one bounded region;

dropping the selected icon within the at least one bounded region, wherein the bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

determining a location of a subject rendered within the image based on a selection of the subject, the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon being related to said selected subject;

linking the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon with a description of the location of the selected subject within the image; and

storing the linked one or more metadata labels and the description as an annotation of the image.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed based on an analysis of pixels of the image.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the analysis includes an analysis of the colour information of the pixels of the image.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is of a predetermined size.

6. to 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, further comprising a step of extracting a part of the image based on the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising a step of displaying the extracted part of the image.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined automatically.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is changeable by a user.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more metadata labels are stored as the annotation of the subject, and are displayed upon selecting the subject in the image.

16. to 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storing step includes storing the one or more metadata labels as the annotation of the subject of the image by using a tag indicating an association with the image.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the one or more metadata labels associated with the subject of the image are stored in an XML file.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of e-mailing at least the image to at least one e-mail address based on the one or more metadata labels associated with the image.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of replacing a default icon by the selected icon based on the subject of the image.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program, wherein said computer program comprises software code portions for performing a method of annotating an image, said program comprising:

code for extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

code for associating each of the metadata labels in the list with at least one of a plurality of icons;

code for displaying the plurality of icons, each of the icons being labelled with one or more of the metadata labels with which the icon was associated;

code for displaying the image adjacent to the displayed plurality of labelled icons, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

code for forming a plurality of bounded regions within the image, each said bounded region being configured to substantially surround a subject within said image;

code for detecting selection of at least one of the displayed plurality of labelled icons;

code for dragging the selected icon to the image, such that at least one of said bounded regions is changed upon the selected icon being dragged over the at least one bounded region in order to emphasize the at least one bounded region;

code for dropping the selected icon within the at least one bounded region, wherein the bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

code for determining a location of a subject rendered within the image based on a selection of the subject, the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon being related to said selected subject;

code for linking the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon with a description of the location of the subject within the image; and

code for storing the linked one or more metadata labels and the description as an annotation of the image.

24. to 25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed based on an analysis of pixels of the image.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein the analysis includes an analysis of the colour information of the pixels of the image.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is of a predetermined size.

29. to 33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, further comprising means code for extracting a part of the image based on the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim 34, ~~wherein said display means~~ further comprising code for displays displaying the extracted part of the image.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined automatically.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is changeable by a user.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[24]] 23, wherein the one or more metadata labels are stored as the annotation of the subject, and are displayed upon selecting the subject in the image.

39. and 40. (Cancelled).

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[24]] 23, ~~wherein said storage means~~ further comprising code for stores storing the ~~one or more~~ metadata labels as the annotation of the subject of the image by using a tag indicating an association with the image.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim 41, wherein the one or more metadata labels associated with the subject of the image are stored in an XML file.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[24]] 23, further comprising means code for e-mailing at least the image to at least one e-mail address based on the one or more metadata labels associated with the image.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[24]] 23, further comprising means code for replacing a default icon by the selected icon based on the subject of the image.

45. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the description includes a location of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject within the image.

46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the description includes a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed at a location at which the selected icon is dropped on the image.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined based on the analysis.



49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein only the linked one or more metadata labels and the description are stored as an annotation of the subject of the image.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein the description of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject includes a location of the bounded region within the image.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein the description of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject includes a size of the bounded region.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[29]] 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed at a location at which the icon is dropped on the image.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined based on the analysis.

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer readable medium according to claim [[24]] 23, wherein only the linked one or more metadata labels and the description are stored as an annotation of the subject of the image.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an image, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

displaying a representation of each of the metadata labels in the list;

displaying the image adjacent to the displayed representations of metadata labels, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

forming a plurality of bounded regions within the image, each said bounded region being configured to substantially surround a subject within said image;

detecting selection of at least one of the displayed representations of metadata labels;

dragging the selected representation to the image, such that at least one of said bounded regions is changed upon the selected representation being dragged over the at least one bounded region in order to emphasize the at least one bounded region;

dropping the selected representation within the at least one bounded region, wherein the bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

determining a location of a subject rendered within the image upon the subject being selected, the metadata label associated with the selected representation being related to said selected subject;

linking the metadata label associated with the selected representation with a description of the location of the selected subject within the image; and

storing the linked metadata label and the description as an annotation of the image.